

Practice Specification Fence (Code 382)

GENERAL USE

This practice facilitates the accomplishment of conservation objectives by providing a means to control movement of animals and people, including vehicles (fences are not needed where natural barriers will serve this purpose). A fence may be applied as part of a conservation management system to facilitate the application of conservation practices that treat the soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resource concerns.

Fences shall consist of acceptable designs to manage the animal(s) or people of concern and meet the life span of the practice. Locate fences to help facilitate management of different landuses and special management areas such as ecological sites, pasture types, riparian areas, critical eroding areas, etc. Consider installing fences in locations that will facilitate maintenance avoiding irregular terrain and/or water crossings. Consider fencing along the contour to minimize livestock trailing and subsequent erosion.

If the primary reason for the fence is to facilitate livestock distribution, a grazing management plan will be developed and/or revised according CPS-528 Prescribed Grazing standard and specification. Install fences in areas that will best facilitate the handling, feeding, watering and movement of the type of livestock managed. For horses, consider avoiding the use of barbed wire and steel T-Posts when possible in order to minimize potential injury, especially when areas of confinement are small. When installing interior fences to facilitate livestock movement, temporary fences may be considered in order to minimize costs and allow for flexibility in the system. Locations should allow for the shortest and straightest distances.

Introduce naive animals to electric fencing in a designated training facility. Select a well fenced area and construct an electric fence across or around the area to allow animals to come in contact with the electric fence. Most animals will be trained in 48 hours.

Fences installed in areas of heavy wildlife movement / traffic, consideration should be given to wire types and spacing. Spacing of top and bottom wires should be adequate for the movement of the types of wildlife being managed. Where white-tailed deer occur, and the height of fence is less than 48 inches, consider spacing the top two wires 10 inches apart to reduce the hazard of catching deer in the fence. If 47-inch net wire is used, not using another top wire or placing barb wire directly on top of net wire should be considered. Where barbed wire is used, the cooperator may choose smooth wire as the top wire to reduce potential for harm to deer jumping over a fence. In areas of the state where the movement of antelope can be an issue, the bottom wire may be positioned to allow for easy movement of antelope. Generally, the bottom wire can be set at 18 inches from the surface of the soil allowing antelope freedom to move from pasture to pasture without injury. Contact State and/or Zone Wildlife Biologist for guidance regarding wildlife fencing needs.

FENCE COMPONENTS AND MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

- A. BRACE ASSEMBLIES (Table 2)
 - i. Are the foundation upon which the fence is built. Determine structural soundness and longevity.
 - ii. Required where fence starts, stops, or has a change in direction of 20° or more.
 - **iii.** Design and spacing are determined from factors such as number of wires used, type of wire, soil type, terrain and animals to be restrained.
 - iv. Posts (Figure 1)
 - Definitions:
 - Post Structural support of the fence, typically vertical but may be horizontal or diagonal.
 - Anchor Post Load bearing post of a fence, usually will be a corner or end post.

- Corner Post Anchor post at any location where fence changes direction 20° or more.
- End Post Anchor post that is at the beginning or end of the fence line.
- Gate Post Anchor post to which a gate is attached.
- Brace Post Vertical post in brace assembly providing support to the anchor post
- Diagonal brace member Post set in a diagonal aspect between two vertical posts.
- Horizontal brace member Horizontal post attached between two vertical posts. Will be placed no lower than 2/3 height of top wire of fence (ex. top wire is 48 in., member placed not lower than 32 in.).
- **Line Post** Post which support main linear body of fence, keep fence in a straight line, and support the top rail, if one exists.

Anchor Post
Corner Post
End Post
Gate Post

Direction of pull

Diagnonal brace member

Brace Post

Brace Post

Table 1

	IV	linimum fo	r Wood Posts			Minimum	for Steel P	osts	
			Depth to	set (ft)				Depth to	set (ft)
Post	Top Diameter (in)	Length (ft)	Backfilled (dirt or concrete)	Driven	Pipe Diameter (in)	Angle Measure (in)	Length (ft)	Backfilled (dirt or concrete)	Driven
Anchor post ¹	6	***See below	3	3	2 3/8	2 ½ x 2 ½ x ¼	*See below	3	5
Brace post	5	***See below	3	3	2 ³ / ₈	2 ½ x 2 ½ x ¼	*See below	3	5
Diagonal brace member	4				2 3/8	2 ½ x 2 ½ x ¼			
Horizontal brace member	4	6			2 ³ / ₈	2 ½ x 2 ½ x ¼	6		
Line post (Not T-post)	3	***See below	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 ³ / ₈		*See below	2	2
Line post ("T" or "U section")					1.2	25 lbs/ft	**See below	Driven to anchor pla	

¹Includes Corner, End, and Gates posts

1. POST MATERIALS (Table 1)

Steel pipe

- *Minimum length will allow for required buried depth and fence height plus a minimum of two (2) inches of post above top wire.
- Will be permanently capped
- Will be painted or galvanized.

· Steel "T" or "U section"

Will be high carbon steel weighing not less than 1.25 lbs / foot of length, exclusive of

- anchor plate.
- **Minimum length will allow for driven depth to have anchor plate completely in ground (at least two (2) inches and fence height plus a minimum of two (2) inches of post above top wire.
- Will have an anchor plate and be studded, embossed, or punched for wire attachment.
- Will be new, galvanized or enameled and baked (components will be repainted if rusting occurs)

Wood

- ***Minimum length will allow for required buried depth and fence height plus a minimum of two (2) inches of post above top wire.
- Material will be new, sound, and treated by a method to ensure complete penetration of sapwood is obtained. Treatment shall be in accordance with Federal Specifications No. TT-W-571i (.4 retention).
 - Exception for cedar, mesquite, Bois d'arc, catalpa, and black locust.

Common treatments for pine and oak species are as follows:

Treatment	Retention lb/ft ³
creosote coal tar	6.0
pentachlorophenol	0.3
chromated copper arsenate	0.4

• Landscape timbers **WILL NOT** be used in any part of the fence.

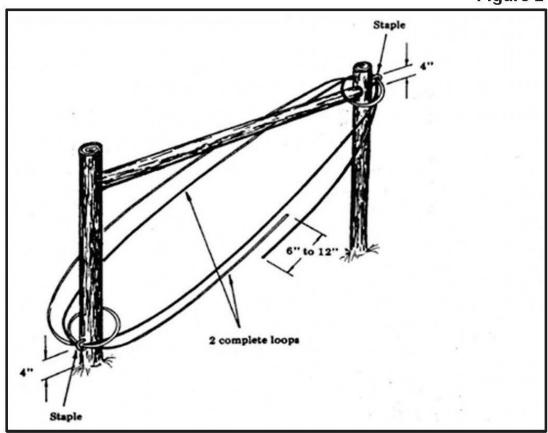
2. SETTING POSTS

- All posts will be buried no less than three (3) feet deep.
 - EXCEPTIONS: ***CONTACT ZONE RMS FOR APPROVAL AND REQUIREMENTS
 - Sandy soils and consistently wet soils require additional depth
 - Minimum depths for driven steel pipe posts will be as follows:

Pipe size	Depth driven
2 % in	5 ft
2 ½ – 4 ½ in	4 ft
5+ in	3 ft

- Backfilled with concrete:
 - It is suggested to have bottom of hole belled-out to anchor concrete
 - If post hole completely filled, top of concrete should be sloped so water can runoff away from post.
 - In some soils, post hole may be filled up to 12 inches from surface with concrete, once dry, backfill with soil on top. ***Contact Zone RMS to determine suitability of site.
- · Backfilled with soil:
 - Small amounts of soil should be tamped at a time (4-6 inch lifts)
 - All excavated soil will be returned to hole and tamped down firmly.
- v. Tension wires for brace assembly (Wooden brace assembly) (Figure 2)

Figure 2

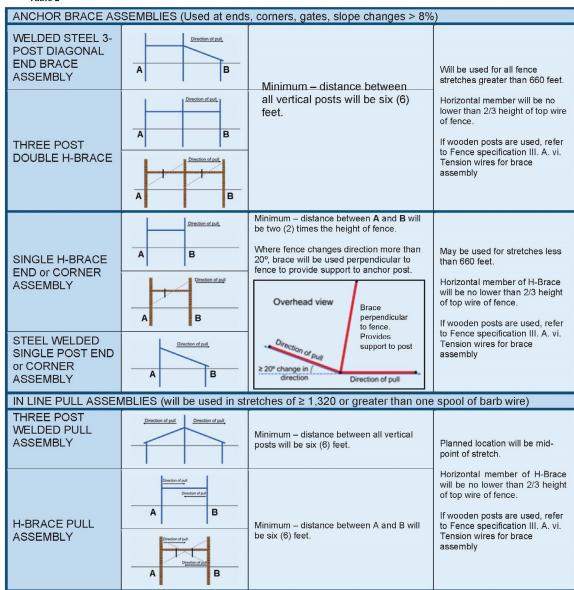


- 1. Diagonal wire shall be constructed of two (2) loops of either 9-gauge smooth wire or 12 ½ gauge high tensile smooth wire, or a double strand 12 ½ gauge barbed or smooth wire.
- 2. Wire will be twisted, or strained, to provide necessary rigidity.
- 3. Brace wire will be wrapped and stapled to brace post 4-6 inches above horizontal brace member.
- 4. Brace wire will be wrapped and stapled to anchor post at a point four (4) inches above ground level.
- vi. All steel brace assemblies will be welded (Table 2)

a. EXCEPTION: ***CONTACT ZONE RMS FOR APPROVAL

- Some locations allow no access or very difficult access with a welder.
- Environmental conditions are such that material used is then weakened by welding.
 - In these cases, a "No Weld" fence assembly and brackets may be used.
 - Clamps will be made from ¼" A36 steel.
 - Galvanized to meet or exceed ASTM F 626

Table 2



B. STAYS

- · i. Will be constructed of durable materials designed for intended purpose
- **ii.** Length will be fence height plus two (2) inches and installed so stays swing free of the ground and allow fence to move when touched by animal.
- **iii.** Will be used when line post spacing exceeds maximum without stays, spaced at equal distances between posts.

C. WIRE

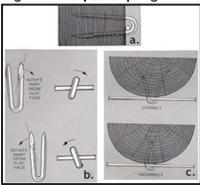
- There are three major categories of wire: All wire will be new material and meet criteria listed below.
 - · i. Barbed
 - ASTM A 121
 - ii. Smooth High Tensile

- 12 ½ gauge; Break strength: 1,300 lbs; Tensile strength exceeds 170,000 psi; meet or exceed Class III galvanized
- iii. Woven Best used where tight control is necessary hog, sheep, goats, predator control
 - ASTM A 116
- Most wire manufacturers include wire specifications on fence tags. If information is not provided or known, lab testing may be needed to determine strength of wire.

D. WIRE ATTACHMENTS

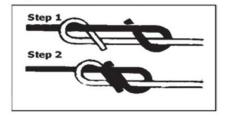
- i. Staples (Figure 3)
 - 1. 9-gauge steel staples; minimum length 1 ½ inches.
 - 2. Driven diagonally to wood grain (avoid splitting post) at a slight downward angle (upward if pull is up)
 - 3. Space left between post and staple to allow movement of wire and avoid damage to zinc coating.

Figure 3: Proper stapling techniques



- ii. Wire clips will be galvanized and greater than or equal to strength of fence wire.
- · iii. Wire splices
 - **1.** High tensile wire:
 - Figure 8 used by overlapping wires two (2) inches, looping each wire over and back through and then pulled together. Splice will tighten as fence is stretched (Figure 4)

Figure 4: Figure 8 splice



- 2. Standard wire:
 - Western Union (preferred) splices will have a minimum of four (4) wraps on each side of center, tightly wound and closely spaced (Figure 5).
 - Loop splices splices will have a minimum of four (4) wraps on each side.

Figure 5: Western Union splice

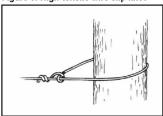


- 3. High Tensile and Standard wire:
 - Compression fittings or splice sleeves
 - Tensile strength will not be less than 80% of the wire
 - Sleeves will be installed according to manufacturer's specifications.
 - Two (2) 3/8 inch sleeves or one (1) 3/4 inch sleeve installed at each splice.

WIRE INSTALLATION

- A. Wire manufacturer installation protocol may be used in lieu of standard methods, if desired.
- B. High tensile wire may be attached to brace assemblies using the high-tensile wire slip knot (Figure 6)

Figure 6: High-tensile wire slip knot



- C. Standard wire will be attached to brace assemblies wrapped twice around the anchor post and ends tightly twisted around stretched wire a minimum of six (6) times.
- D. Fence wire will be stretched to sufficient tension prior to being fastened to posts. Temperature
- variations must be considered (wire will tighten in cold weather and expand in hot weather).
- E. For suspension fences, wire tension is critical, and wires will be stretched to allow no more than
- inches of sag between posts set at 100 feet and 1.5 inches for posts at 50 feet.
- F. Boundary and exclusion fences wire will be on side of post facing animals to be controlled.
- **G.** Wire may be on either side of the post when cross fencing.

ELECTRIC FENCE – ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS AND MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS A. ENERGIZER

- i. High voltage, low impedance that can produce at least 5,000-volt peak output and a short pulse that is less than 300 mAmps in intensity, finished within 0.0003 of a second and a rate of 35 - 65 pulses per minute.
- ii. 110-volt, 220-volt, or battery powered system capable of working 3 weeks. If the length of the fence requires an energizer of more than 4 joules, a solar charger will be needed on the battery systems.
- iii. Minimum voltage on fence for livestock control:
 - 1. Cattle 1600
 - 2. Sheep and hair goats 2000

- 3. Hogs, horses, and meat goats 1200
- iv. High impact, weather resistant case
- v. Safety pace fuse to prevent over-pulsing
- vi. Will be installed according to manufacturer's recommendations

B. GROUND

- i. Follow manufacturer's written recommendations for grounding.
- ii. Rods should be galvanized pipe or rod ½ inch diameter or larger.
 - 1. Copper rods with copper wire may be used if energizer terminals are copper or stainless steel.
 - 2. If energizer terminals are not copper or stainless steel, do not use copper ground rods due to corrosion at the connection.
- iii. Rods should be driven where soil remains moist, for best results.
- iv. Drive rods at least 10 feet apart.
- v. Do not use grounding system for other existing applications, such as power poles, breaker boxes, etc.
- vi. At least 65 feet should separate fence grounding system from other grounding systems. (For safety precautions, grounding system should be greater than 25 feet from well casings.)

C. SURGE PROTECTOR

• i. For protection of 120- or 240-volt energizers, a voltage surge protector will be installed between the energizer and power supply.

D. INSULATORS

- i. Porcelain, ceramic, high quality UV stabilized polyethylene or equivalent will be used on wood and steel posts
- ii. Offset brackets may be attached to standard fences at intervals of 50-60 feet and 2/3 the height of the animal controlled.
- iii. Shall be capable of withstanding a minimum 10,000 volts.

E. LIGHTNING PROTECTION

- i. If available, follow manufacturer's written recommendations for installing lightning protection.
- ii. If not available: (Figure 7)
 - 1. Lightning arrestor grounding rods should be placed at least 65 feet from those of the energizer.
 - **2.** Use at least one (1) more ground rod on the arrestor than was used on the energizer. Attach the lightning arrestor to the wires of the fence.
 - 3. Install a lightning choke in the fence line immediately between the lightning arrestor and the energizer.
 - **4.** The lightning arrestor ground must be better than the energizer ground for it to function properly, because lightning will seek the least resistance route to ground.

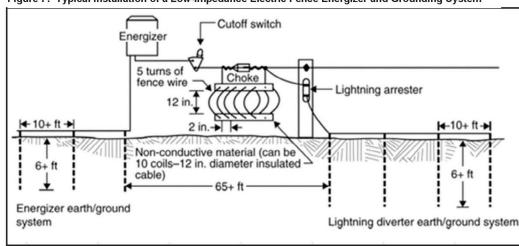


Figure 7: Typical installation of a Low-Impedance Electric Fence Energizer and Grounding System

F. OTHER ACCESSORIES

- i. Warning signs: Recommended every 300 ft on exterior fences. Should be posted around barns, troughs, & other facilities as specified by local, state, and/or federal laws or regulations.
- ii. Gates for electric fences shall be installed according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- **iii.** Gate handles, switches, & other hardware used to conduct electrical current must be galvanized or contain aluminum components.

FENCE PLAN

Prior to construction, utility check sheet must be completed to ensure all underground utilities are avoided.

When planning fence, a completed design/construction specification sheet will be completed and discussed with the producer. (TX-382 IR)

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an on-going maintenance program. Inspection of fences after storm and other disturbance events is necessary to insure the continued proper function of the fence. Maintenance and repairs will be performed in a timely manner as needed, including tree and limb removal and water gap replacement. This includes the prevention of vegetative growth or removal of woody vegetation in the fence.

Remove and properly discard all broken fencing materials and hardware. All necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of construction and maintenance crews.

VARIANCES

Requests for variances will be submitted to the State Rangeland Management Specialist.

SUMMARY - FENCE MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

•	Summary - Fend	se Materials and	Summary - Fence Materials and Installation Requirements	nts				
V Fonce type	Wire	Corner, End, Gate, & Brace nest	Corner, End & Gate post size	Brace post size	Brace intervals	Line post	Line post size	Line post spacing
	Designed to be in place with m division fencing (cross fencing)	ross fencing).	mal maintenance requiren	nents. Used for exterior (Designed to be in place with minimal maintenance requirements. Used for exterior (boundary) fencing of property and fencing of specific landuses (such as cropland) as well as for interior division fencing (cross fencing).	landuses (s	uch as cropland) as well as t	for interior
Barbed wire	ASTM – A 121 min. 12 ½ - gauge standard wire or 15 ½ -	Steel pipe or	Steel posts. min 2 % in set in ground to min depth 3 feet if backfilled or driven 5	Steel post: min. 2 % in.; set in ground to min depth 3 feet if backfilled or	Single H-Brace or Steel Welded Single post assembly: may be used when fence is less than 660 feet between corner, end, and/or gate posts	Steel pipe	Steel post: min. 2 % in set in ground to min depth 2 feet	Without stays: Max. 20 feet With stays:
, t	gauge high tensile	Wood	feet Wood posts: min 6 in set in ground to min	driven 5 feet Wood posts: min 5 in: set in	Double H-Brace or 3-post assembly: used when fence is more than 660 feet between corner, end, and/or gate posts.	Steel "T" posts	Steel "T" min 1.25 lbs/ft. Drive into ground to bury top of anchor plate 2 in.	Max. 30 feet
			depth 3 feet	ground to min depth 3 feet	50	Wood	Wood posts: min 3 in set in ground to min depth 2 % feet	
High Tensile, ASTM Class III non-electric galvanized smooth wire 12 ½-gauge,	ASTM Class III galvanized	Steel pipe	Steel posts: min 2 % in set in ground to min depth 3 feet if	Steel post: min. 2 % in.; set in ground to min depth 3	Single H-Brace or Steel Welded Single post assembly. may be used when fence is less than 660 feet between corner, end, and/or gate posts	Steel pipe	Steel post: min. 2 % in set in ground to min depth 2 feet	Without stays: Max. 20 feet
Need more 1 strands b	1,300 lbs. break strength	5	feet	driven 5 feet	Double H-Brace or 3-post assembly: used when fence is more than 660 feet between corner, end,	Steel "T" posts	Steel "T": min 1.25 lbs/ft. Drive into ground to bury	Max. 30 feet
than barbed		Wood	Wood posts: min 6 in set in ground to min	Wood posts: min 5 in; set in			top of anchor plate 2 in.	
wire. Safer for horses & wildlife.			depth 3 feet	ground to min depth 3 feet	In-Line Pull Assemblies: Use to divide fence lengths where run of fence is more than 1,320 feet long.	Wood	Wood posts: min 3 in set in ground to min depth 2 ½ feet	
Woven wire	ASTM - A 116	Steel pipe	Steel posts: min 2 % in set in ground to min	c	Single H-Brace or Steel Welded Single post assembly: may be used when fence is less than	Steel pipe	Steel post: min. 2 % in set in ground to min	Without stays: Max. 20 feet
where tight		or	backfilled or driven 5	led or	ooo reet between collier, ella, allava gate posts		ueptil z leet	With stays:
control is necessary - hod		Wood	Wood posts: min 6 in.	Wood posts:		posts	Drive into ground to bury top of anchor plate 2 in	Max. 30 reet High Tensile
sheep, goats, predator			set in ground to min depth 3 feet	min 5 in; set in ground to min depth 3 feet	<u>hblies:</u> Use to divide fence of fence is more than 1,320	Wood	Wood posts: min 3 in set in ground to min	woven wire without stays: Max. 25 feet
ō		i			teet long.		depth 2 1/2 teet	1 1 100000
High Tensile, g Electric	ASTM Class III galvanized 12 ½-gauge,	Steel pipe	Steel posts: min 2 % in set in ground to min depth 3 feet if	5 5	Single H-Brace or Steel Welded Single post assembly: may be used when fence is less than 1,320 feet between comer, end, and/or gate posts	Steel pipe	Steel post: min. 2 % in set in ground to min depth 2 feet	Without stays: Max. 100 feet
	140,000 PSI, 1,000 lbs.	ار ا	backfilled or driven 5 feet	feet if backfilled or driven 5 feet		Steel "T"	Steel "T": min 1.25 lbs/ft.	With stays (2 or more):
used for interior cross	break strength	Wood	Wood posts: min 6 in set in ground to min	Wood posts: min 5 in; set in	<u>Double H-Brace or 3-post assembly.</u> used when fence is more than 1,320 feet between corner, end, and/or gate posts.	posts	Drive into ground to bury top of anchor plate 2 in.	Max. 150 teet
fencing but can also be used for			depth 3 feet	ground to min depth 3 feet	Use to divide fence nce is more than 2,640	Mood	Wood posts: min 3 in set in ground to min depth 2 ½ feet	
fences.					race may be used in certain Zone RMS for specifics.	Other	Contact Zone RMS	

	Summary - Fen	nce Materials and	Summary - Fence Materials and Installation Requirements	nts				
	Wire	Corner, End,	ner, End & Gate	Brace post size	Brace intervals	Line post	Line post size	Line post
Fence type		Gate, & Brace post	post size					spacing
Temporary	Only used for inte	erior cross fencin	g and areas where pressu	are from livestock is not l	Only used for interior cross fencing and areas where pressure from livestock is not heavy. May be easily attached to permanent fences	,		
Electric	H	Steel pipe	fficient to	Not applicable	Not applicable	Fiberglass	Min. 4 feet long,	Without stays:
High Tensile galvanized	ASTM Class III		anchor wire.			plastic, or other	set deep enougn in the around to withstand	Max. 100 reet
,	12 1/2-gauge	or	Posts will be long			suitable	livestock.	With stays (2
Net fencing			enough to allow them			material	May use "step-in" posts.	or more):
(sneep & goats)		Wood	to be set at least 1 % feet in ground			as		Max. 150 teet
Polyethylene	Polyethylene Polywire w/ at					by NRCS.		Spacing specified by
twine &/or	least 6 strands							manuracturer
Other	Generally used a	around corrals an	d homesteads. They may	be used to restrict accer	Generally used around corrals and homesteads. They may be used to restrict access to unsafe areas such as lagoons, abandoned mines and other unsafe or sensitive areas. When used for investork control they will be designed based on the type of animal controlled. Generally more expensive to install and maintain	nes and other	unsafe or sensitive areas. V	When used for
Wooden	Wood rails -	Steel pipe	Steel posts: min 2 % in	Not applicable	Not applicable	Steel pipe	Steel post: min. 2 % in	Max. 8 feet on
Board	nse well-		set in ground to min				set in ground to min	center
	seasoned or	č	depth 3 feet if				depth 2 feet	
	to minimize	5	feet			Steel "T"	Steel "T" min 1 25 lbs/ff	
	warping.					posts	Drive into ground to bury	
		Wood	Wood posts: min 6 in				top of anchor plate 2 in.	
	Rails min. 1x6		set in ground to min					
	8 reet long		deptn 3 teet			DOOAA	Wooden posts min. 4 in diameter or 4 in square	
	Non-durable							
	wood must be						Length sufficient to	
	preservative						support desired height of	
	pressure						fence and depth of set	
	lieated for							
	Ground,							
	Exposed Use.						10 TO	
Chain link	Min. 9-gauge	Steel	Steel post: min. 2 % in	Not applicable	Not applicable	Steel	Steel post: min. 2 in	Max. 10 feet
	galvanized wire	(Schedule 40	set in ground to min			(Schedule	set in ground to min	on center
	of zinc coating	galvanized w/	2000			pipe)		
	per sq. ft.	2 oz zinc				galvanized		
	Minimum	coating per sq				w/ 2 oz		
	tensile strength	ft or painted				zinc		
	of 1,290 lbs., 2-					coating		
	mesh.					painted		
Other fence t	ypes may be used	d (pipe, vinyl, gal	vanized panel and cable for	ences). Specifications for	Other fence types may be used (pipe, vinyl, galvanized panel and cable fences). Specifications for each type will be developed on case by case basis in coordination with Zone and State RMS	is in coordinal	ion with Zone and State RM	Š

APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS APPROVED:

CHARLES KNEUPER Date: 2019.12.11 10:51:31 -06'00'

12/11/2019

STATE RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

DATE

ROBERT ZIEHR Digitally signed by ROBERT ZIEHR Date: 2020.10.15 14:35:34-05'00'

STATE RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST

DATE

REVIEWED BY:

STANLEY BRADBURY Digitally signed by STANLEY BRADBURY Date: 2019.11.20 07:38:10 -06'00'

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST-ZONE 1

PRESTON IRWIN Date: 2019.12.11 10:01:08 -06'00'

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST-ZONE 2

VIVIAN GARCIA Digitally signed by VIVIAN GARCIA Date: 2019.11.20 07:48:35 -06'00'

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST-ZONE 3

JASON HOHLT Digitally signed by JASON HOHLT Date: 2019.11.18 11:51:55 -06'00'

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST-ZONE 4

MICHAEL WILLSON Digitally signed by MICHAEL WILLSON Date: 2019.12.10 13:14:23 -06'00'

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST-ZONE 5

Specific Site Requirements